

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 /011 W
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P R 221719Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9952

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IV

SUBJ: LOS ANGELES JUBILEE SINGERS

USIA FOR IAA

REF: ABIDJAN 6064, 6534

1. PLANS BEGINNING TO JELL FOR EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE,
IF ADMITTEDLY AMBITIOUS PROGRAM FOR JUBILEE SINGERS, BUT
OUR PREPARATIONS CURRENTLY AT COMPLETE STANDSTILL
PENDING RECEIPT OF CU'S NOTIFICATION THAT OUR PROPOSED
SCHEDULE IS ACCEPTABLE TO ARTISTS, PER OUR TWO REFTELS.

2. OUR STILL TENTATIVE PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) SEPTEMBER 14 - FREE DAY. INFORMAL RECEPTION
IN EVENING AT PAO RESIDENCE TO MEET OFFICIAL AMERICAN
COMMUNITY (OPTIONAL, NON-PERFORMING.)

B) SEPT. 15 - FREE DAY. POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL
SIGHT-SEEING, HOME HOSPITALITY BY RESIDENT AMERICANS.

C) SEPT. 16 - SHORT CONCERT (MAXIMUM ONE HOUR) AT
CULTURAL CENTER AT 19H30 TO MARK INAUGURATION OF CENTER.

D) SEPT. 17 - PERFORMANCE AT PRESTIGIOUS PALAIS
DES CONGRES AT 21H00. (WE HAVE REASON TO HOPE THIS WILL BE
UNDER PATRONAGE OF EXTREMELY HIGH-RANKING GOIC OFFICIAL).

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E) DURING DAY OF EITHER SEPT 16 OR 17, VIDEO-TAPING
OF APPROXIMATELY ONE-HOUR PERFORMANCE FOR NATIONAL
TELEVISION FOR POST-DEPARTURE BROADCAST.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, CONCERT AT PALAIS DES
CONGRES COULD WELL BE MAJOR CULTURAL EVENT IN ABIDJAN OF
FALL SEASON, IF RPT IF WE CAN MOUNT TOP-CALIBER PUBLICITY/
PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN:

A) RADIO AND BOTH DAILY AND WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
ENTHUSIASTIC ATNYROSPECT OF VISIT, WILL CARRY ALL AGENCY-
PRODUCED MATERIALS. ALSO, WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
FEATUREING SINGERS ON COVER. IN ADDITION, TV WISHES DEVOTE
HALF-HOUR WIDELY VIEWED NOON BROADCAST TO INTERVIEWS - CUM -
PERFORMANCE ON SEPT 16 OR 17. PERFORMANCE SEGMENT COULD BE
TAPED AT SAME TIME AS REGULAR PROGRAM (PARA 2-E), BUT WOULD
REQUIRE LIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALBERT MCNEIL AND/OR OTHER
ENSEMBLE MEMBERS, WITH INTERPRETER IF NECESSARY.

B) BOTH RADIO AND DAILY NEWSPAPER WILLING CARRY
INTERVIEWS/LOCALLY PRODUCED FEATURES ON SEPT 16 OR 17 IF
ONE OR MORE ARTISTS WILLING DEVOTE NECESSARY MINIMAL
TIME ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON OR SUNDAY.

C) HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT SECSTATE FOR
CULTURE WILL AGREE TO SPONSOR CENTER OPENING, THUS ENSURING
EXCELLENT LOCAL COVERAGE ALL MEDIA, IF FORMAL REQUEST
AWAITING HIM UPON RETURN FROM QUEBEC YOUTH FESTIVAL. (HE
RETURNS AUGUST 25.)

4. IN VIEW LOCAL CONDITIONS (I.E. UNDEPENDABLE
PLANE SCHEDULES WHICH PRECLUDE SATURDAY PERFORMANCE, AND
IMPOSSIBILITY OF SCHEDULING SUNDAY PERFORMANCE) FEEL
PROPOSED PROGRAM OF PERFORMANCES/PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES
IS NOT EXCESSIVE FOR GROUP'S 4-DAY SCHEDULE IN ABIDJAN. WE
HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MOUNT OUTSTANDING CULTURAL EVENT OF
SEASON OR TO FALL FLAT ON OUR PROVERBIALS. WE MORE THAN
WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK BUT IN ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATE REPLY
CONCERNING ACCEPTABILITY OUR PROPOSALS, LATTER ALTERNATIVE
SEEMS MORE LIKELY. ADVISE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA06820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740232-0058
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740828/aaaaaxmx.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ABIDJAN 6064, 6534
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 FEB 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS ANGELES JUBILEE SINGERS USIA FOR IAA
TAGS: OEXC, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005